

OCALA EVENING STAR

PUBLISHED EVERY DAY EXCEPT SUNDAY

BITTINGER & CARROLL, PROPRIETORS
R. R. Carroll, General Manager Port V. Leavengood, Business Manager
J. H. Benjamin, Editor

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One month, in advance......50	One month, in advance......80

AMONG OURSELVES

The Star finds that most of our people agree with it in what it has said in the past weeks with a view to awakening our business men to the encroachments made on our territory by the merchants of other towns. Some people, of course, who don't like the Star anyhow, have put an intentional misconception on what we have said, and said we are advertising other towns. Such a charge is silly and not worth answering. Others say that while what the Star says is true, it should be discussed only among ourselves. That is what the Star has been doing. These prods to Ocala, published in our daily paper, which sends comparatively few copies out of town, have not been published in the weekly, which has a large country circulation. Not that we think this makes much difference. The country people are plenty wise to all these things. But we have always pursued the policy of filling the weekly up with the matter which we think is of first interest to them, and by the time that has been done there is not much space left for what mostly pertains to the town.

The ostrich policy, of trying to suppose nobody will kick you if you have your head in a sack does not pay any community any more than it pays an individual. The Star has been trying to pull the sack off.

Two or three weeks ago we published a circular letter sent out in Marion county by a Gainesville firm, and setting forth the advantages to be gained by trading with the said firm. Every household in the territory in which said firm was operating had already received a copy of that letter, but very few Ocala business men would have known it had been in circulation if they hadn't seen it in the Star. Was that advertising Gainesville or telling Ocala what Ocala needed to know?

If this country was at war with another country, and the enemy, unknown to Americans, had weapons that gave them a great superiority over our people, and this fact became known to an American newspaper, what should that newspaper do? Keep quiet for fear of causing some of our people to drop dead with heart failure, or scatter the information broadcast so that all might prepare. Only one answer to this can be made by a sensible person.

Business is, and always will be, a war. One Ocala merchant will take business away from another, if he can. Ocala merchants will take business away from Gainesville merchants if they can. And of course Gainesville merchants will take business away from Ocala if they can. Business men will take the bread out of the mouths of each other's children in the way of competition, even tho they might split their last dollar to help feed another man's child if necessary. And in business war, as in the war of guns, information of what the other fellow is doing goes a long way.

The Star has been observing these things for some time. It has had reliable information, and for a number of months it spoke about it only by word of mouth. What it said seemed to be of little or no effect, so it began to print, and there was something doing right away.

It is one of the most ridiculous things in the world to think that the country people can be fooled about these things. They know more about them than the town people. They have, as a general thing, less money than the town folks, and they calculate more closely and buy more carefully. They know just how much they can obtain for their produce and for their money in Gainesville as well as they do in Ocala. Gainesville has seen to that. Gainesville has been hustling for their trade more diligently than Ocala has.

It is claimed with some reason that we do considerable business with the southern end of Alachua county. People who are well informed on the matter say that Ocala drygoods stores are better equipped and give better prices than those of Gainesville. We have much better roads than Alachua, and it is natural for people who have autos to come to Ocala and to buy while they are here. But we think that a close examination of this business will show there is not enough of it to keep even one Ocala store running. It is a very small item compared with what goes into Alachua county from Marion county by railroad.

It is the same way with the northeastern corner of the county, where ten people go to Palatka to trade where one comes to Ocala. You seldom see an Orange Springs man on our streets, but we never open a Palatka paper but we see notice of several Orange Springs people being in that town.

As for other matters that Marion county people have in complaint against Ocala, several of them were set forth in Jack McCully's letter a few weeks ago. This is another thing the Star was criticised for publishing. There seemed to be a disposition to

regard Jack as an enemy of Ocala. But we have heard the same story from others than Jack. And several of our own business men have confessed some of the things he spoke of not only months but years before he wrote the letter. Jack is a pretty wise old scout, and voiced the opinions of many people in his part of the county. He is not an enemy to Ocala. He was simply trying to pull the sack off its head.

We all know that Gainesville has better freight rates than Ocala, so it should not be a violent shock to be told that Gainesville can undersell Ocala, and it is only logical to suppose that she is doing so.

All advantages that Gainesville has over this town can be overcome by energetic co-operation on the part of our business men. There is not any reason why the town should not have practically the same freight rate. There is only forty miles difference, and that difference, unless unfair advantage is taken, will make very little difference in a car of freight. The trouble is that the roads are disposed to take all the advantage they can. Once in awhile, our people make a kick on this. Then they relapse and accept conditions for months and years. They fight by spasms and not steadily and unanimously.

And, as we have told our people many times, and as they know without telling, they are neglecting—at present, they are absolutely ignoring—their main channel of relief, the Oklawaha river.

The business done by the Carmichael freight boat under considerable disadvantages shows plainly what the business men of the city could do for themselves if they would. The boat was not so well calculated as it should have been for that river. It draws too much water and hasn't enough space in proportion to its engine power. But it carried a lot of freight, and it is suicidal to let it remain tied up now when the river is high. Our merchants could get together and put a couple of stern wheelers, for which the water would never be too low, on the river, and keep them busy the year round. They would give the town an advantage that no other town in this part of Florida could cope with.

Some few people may criticize the Star for talking out in meeting about these things. But the Star has the approbation of the large majority, and even if it hadn't, it would be its duty to speak.

We confidently expect to hear, or see, in the next day or so, that the Star says that all the country people are down on Ocala and Gainesville and Palatka are taking all Ocala's trade. So we guess we had better say in advance that we haven't said any such a blank thing. Ocala holds the goodwill of most of the people in her territory and has most of their trade. But the people have some reason of complaint and think they have more, and some trade is going to other towns that we could have if we went after it. And we are not doing what we could and should do to obtain better freight rates. The Star wants all reason for complaint removed, and wants Ocala to have all that is coming to her.

And now "if this be treason make the most of it."

Jesus Christ rebuked those who persecuted the Magdalene and this paper does not think that it needs any higher example.

When it comes to talking about southern states, there are few northern republican papers more unfair and untruthful than the professedly democratic New York World.

The 116th anniversary of Mexican independence was celebrated thruout that republic Saturday. It found the Mexicans, if possible, worse off than they were under the rule of Spain.

Don't forget the big meeting of farmers at Summerfield next Saturday, the 23rd. The people of Summerfield hope that at least a thousand farmers and stock raisers will be present.

Under a five column headline the Leesburg Commercial publishes a four or five column story about the 110 acres of corn on the Mucian farm. The Commercial makes special note of the fact that the farms are near Leesburg. Don't blame the Commercial at all. It does not say, however, that the Mucian farms are in Marion county, and nearer Ocala than Leesburg.

The state papers insist upon telling us that Uncle Joe Dixon is back with us—but we miss him, if they do not. He was up at Dothan, Ala., when we last heard from him, a little uncertain about his return to Florida, because, as much as he loves the state, he says he hardly cares to live in it should Catts be elected governor. —Lakeland Telegram.

Tell Uncle Joe to come on. It will take a bigger man than Catts to make us stay out of Florida.

OCALA BANK DEPOSITS CONTINUE TO INCREASE

Deposits in the banks of Ocala continue to increase. Deposits in the Ocala National, the Munroe & Chambliss National, and the Commercial banks have increased over \$280,000 since September of last year. This is evidence of this section's ability to recover from the conditions brought about by the war, which caused the closing down of a number of the large industries. Marion county, moreover, is harvesting a bumper corn crop which will doubtless add to deposits, not to mention cotton and other crops, and the partial reopening of some of the manufactures that were closed.

On September 12, 1915, the deposits in the Munroe & Chambliss National Bank amounted to \$401,623.98, and on September 12, 1916, the deposits in the same bank were \$511,749.02, an increase for the year of \$110,125.04. The deposits in the Ocala National Bank on September 12, of last year, were \$325,261.37, and on the same date this year amount to \$426,367.74, having increased \$101,106.37.

The Commercial bank deposits on September 12, 1916, amounted to the very substantial sum of \$454,009.81. The total deposits in the three banks come to \$1,392,226.57.

PREPARING FOR THE INDUSTRIAL PARADE

A committee has been named to take charge of the industrial parade for fair week, and will meet this afternoon at 5 o'clock in the office of the board of trade to make plans for a procession that is expected to surpass that of last year.

The members of the parade committee are:

L. R. Trammell, H. M. Weathers, Clarence Meffert, A. R. Sandlin, Louis H. Chazal, A. Waterman, Harvey Clark, D. Neil Ferguson, Fred Hocker, Duncan McDonald, Robert Anderson, Luther Mershon, Travis Collier, R. W. Blacklock, Rev. Bunyan Stephens.

REV. BUNYAN STEPHENS' IDEA OF REST

(Baptist Witness)

Our genial brother, Rev. Bunyan Stephens, of Ocala, has been "resting" up in Georgia holding protracted meetings. How like a preacher is that. What other class of men on this earth would take a vacation that way. Brother Stephens is to fill his pulpit in Ocala the first Sunday in September, as usual. Georgia is a dangerous place for a good preacher to visit, holding a meeting. They covet earnestly the best gifts over there, and several of our best gifts have gone to them. We warn them again concerning our John Bunyan Stephens. Hands off. We do not wish him to make so many a "Pilgrim Progress" to Georgia, he might find a "delectable land" and fail to return home.

A. P. Spencer, rumor says, will leave the agricultural department and go with the Florida Grower, succeeding Capt. Moreno who has cast his lot with the big publishing house recently incorporated at Winter Haven—Leesburg Commercial.

Mr. Spencer is a frequent visitor to this city and his numerous friends in Marion would regret any change that caused them to see him seldom.

Horace White, for many years one of the country's foremost journalists and authorities on financial subjects, died at his home in New York Sunday. He was 82 years old. Mr. White was a survivor of the distinguished group of journalists which included Charles A. Dana and White-Laid Reid. He was a personal friend of Abraham Lincoln.

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I have a Ford touring car, 60-inch tread, in perfect condition. Apply at once if interested. I only keep them two days at the outside. R. R. Carroll.

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1917?

By
EDWIN BALMER

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(Continued from Yesterday)

CHAPTER IV.

Evidence of Nation Wide Plot.

THEY separated and crept up crouching and listening every few yards and then advancing again. Tail rank grass, which would conceal a man lying down, was between the road and a potato field twenty feet to the left.

Jim gasped as he crouched again in the grass. His hands were wet with blood. Wendell walked past, shoving his revolver into his pocket, and stood staring down. Jim joined him.

Ingouf's body lay in the grass, so mangled that Jim, forcing himself to bend closer, scarcely could be certain that this was the form of the man he had seen at the factory a few hours earlier. If any of the revolver bullets had hit him their marks had been obliterated by the work of the bomb, which, either exploding as he threw it or having fallen from his grasp and bursting at his feet, instantly had slain him. The explosion had been of terrible force. The ground was hollowed at Ingouf's feet, the grass was strewn and scattered, and the body was torn and half denuded. As Jim staggered back from it, sickened, Wendell knelt beside it.

"We must search him," Bob said quietly. Jim recoiled and walked off to the motorcycle. The engine was still running as it lay in the road. Jim stopped it and looked over the machine. It carried nothing but the ordinary equipment and the usual tools in the case. The two bombs evidently had been carried by Ingouf himself, and he seemed to have had only the two. At least Bob found none in his search, and he discovered on the body only keys and pocket knife, a few coins and other ordinary trifles. In a pocket of the coat—it was a shredded strip of wool, all blood soaked—was a letter addressed in typewriting to Ingouf at his home.

Half the envelope and contents only remained. The envelope bore in the corner the return address of "S. D. Wright, Insurance, Chicago." Within was half the sheet of a typewritten letter of the ordinary sort of life insurance solicitation—at least the type-written lines presented only the usual appeal to the addressee to insure—but between those lines appeared handwriting in the delicate, small characters of a woman's script. Only the first half of each line remained, and in the moonlight the writing was not legible. Wendell struck a match and held it over the paper:

Immediately upon receiving this you will— and proceed before morning to the west— etely demolish and burn and thereupon you both in readiness for further service— when you will offer yourselves as volunteers— and go to the front with the company for the pur—

Wendell dropped his match. He gazed at Jim across the blood soaked bit of paper. "Do you see what we have?" "You mean his own foot?" "For his duty at the start of war."

"At the start of war?"

Wendell searched the ground finally to make certain that he had found everything; then he folded the bit of paper and the half envelope within other papers in his pocket.

"We can't get back to your house too soon," he said to Jim. "They will come out of that farmhouse and do all

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Condensed Statement of Condition of

THE COMMERCIAL BANK

OF OCALA,
OCALA, FLORIDA

At the Close of Business September 12th, 1916, as called for by Comptroller.

RESOURCES	LIABILITIES
Loans and discounts.....\$378,062.93	Capital stock.....\$ 50,000.00
Marion county warrants... 13,813.64	Surplus..... 25,000.00
Overdrafts..... 3,166.27	Undivided profits..... 4,129.77
State, county and other bonds..... 16,675.00	DEPOSITS..... 454,009.81
Banking house, furniture and fixtures..... 44,308.25	
Other real estate..... 860.00	
Cash and due from banks.. 76,253.49	
TOTAL.....\$533,139.58	TOTAL.....\$533,139.58

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4:30 p. m. Ar. Ocala	Lv. 4:10 p. m.
6:21 p. m. Ar. Dade City	Lv. 2:24 p. m.
7:06 p. m. Ar. Plant City	Lv. 1:40 p. m.
7:50 p. m. Ar. Tampa	Lv. 1:00 p. m.
St. Peterburg	Lv. 10:15 a. m.

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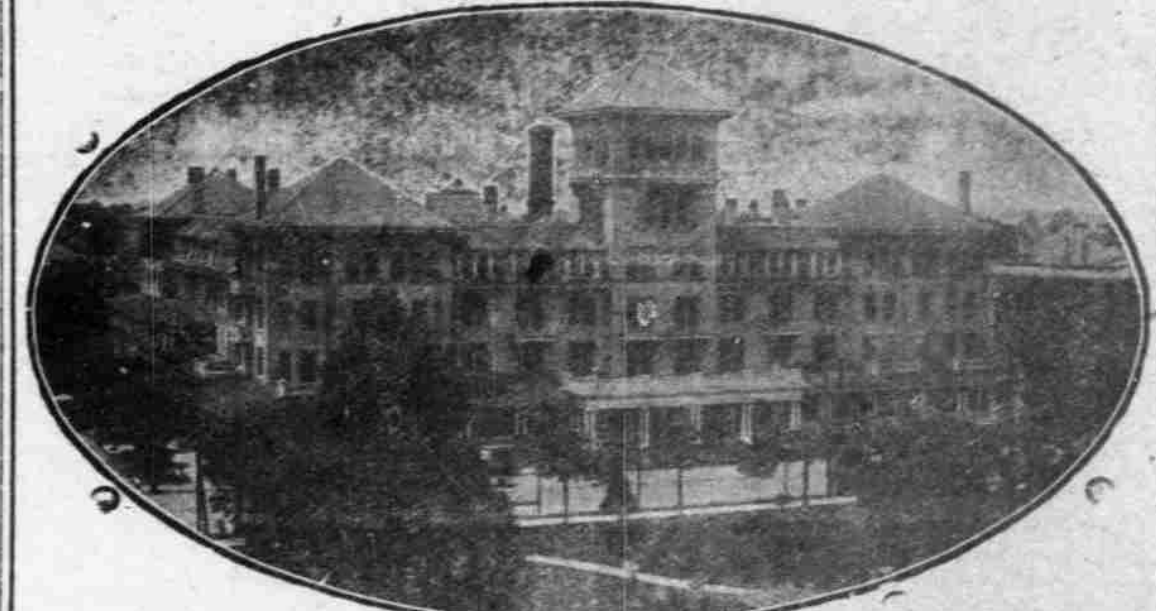
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